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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

TRAN, TONGOC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2134

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/614,087

Applicant(s)

LEAH ET AL.

Examiner

Tongoc Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 5/5/2004. Claims 1, 18, 22, 39 and 43 have been amended. Claims 44-46 are added. Claims 1-46 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. In response to Applicant's remark on independent claims 1, 22 and 43. Applicant contends that Blakley teaches "propagating already stored information" whereas "applicant's claims are directed toward propagating an identifying secret that has been transmitted from the client" (applicant's remark on page 20-21). Blakley discloses that user must be authenticated before accessing DCE environment (col. 2, lines 34-45), and since users are communicated to the security server (PSA) (Fig. 3A) and the security server encompasses the DCE registry (master registry) (col. 2, lines 55-67). Furthermore, Blakley teaches most registries store encrypted passwords (e.g. col. 2, lines 60-61, col. 3, lines 11-15 and 60-65). Therefore, it suggests that the propagating plaintext password taught by Blakley are transmitted from the client.

Applicant's arguments with respect to dependent claims 18 and 39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 44-46 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The terms "fro" recited in the claims appear to be typographical errors.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 22 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The preamble of claims 1, 22 and 43 recite "propagating security credentials from a trusted authenticating domain". However, the amended portion of the claims recite "propagating the identifying secret of the user directly from the PSA. The preamble suggests the domain is propagating (updating) the identifying secret of the user whereas the amended step suggests the PSA is performing the function of updating the user's secret identifying information.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-17, 19-38 and 40-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blakley, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,323, hereinafter Blakley).

In respect to claim 1, Blakley discloses a computing environment having a connection to a network, a computer program product for securely propagating security credentials using a trusted authenticating domain, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for establishing a secure connection between a client and a password synchronization agent (PSA) (see col. 3, lines 35-46);

computer-readable program code means for transmitting an identifier of a user and an identifying secret of the user from the client to the PSA over the secure connection (see col. 2, lines 45 and col. 3, lines 35-46);

computer-readable program code means for validating the user with the trusted authenticating domain using the transmitted user identifier and identifying secret, on request of the PSA (see col. 2, line 26-57);

computer-readable program code means for propagating the identifying secret of the user directly from the PSA to a master registry if the validation succeeds (see Fig. 3A, col. 2, lines 24-col. 3, lines 20 and col. 6, lines 40-60 and col. 7, lines 7-33).

In respect to claim 2, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising:

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computer-readable program code means for establishing a second secure connection between the PSA and the trusted authenticating domain; and

computer-readable program code means for using the second secure connection for the validating of the user (see col. 6, lines 22-34).

In respect to claim 3, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for establishing a third secure connection between the PSA and the master registry (see col. 6, lines 22-34); and

computer-readable program code means for using the third secure connection for the propagating of the identifying secret to the master registry (see col. 11 lines 27-31).

In respect to claim 4, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code means for propagating the identifying secret to one or more other target registries if the validation succeeds (see col. 8, lines 34-44).

In respect to claim 5, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 4, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for establishing additional secure connections between the PSA and each of the other target registries (see col. 8, lines 34-44); and

computer-readable program code means for using the additional secure connections for the propagating of the identifying secret to the other target registries (see col. 8, lines 34-44).

In respect to claim 6, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 11, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for obtaining an identification of the trusted authenticating domain from the user (see col. 5, line 49-col. 6, line 2); and

computer-readable program code means for verifying that the trusted authenticating domain is trusted by the master registry as a prerequisite to the propagating (see col. 3, line 54-60, col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 7, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for obtaining an identification of the trusted authenticating domain from the master registry (see col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 8, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 6, wherein the master registry stores trust policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for verifying that the trusted authenticating domain is trusted further comprises computer-readable program code means for checking whether the stored trust policy information for the user includes the identification obtained from the user (see col. 3, lines 54-60, col. 5, line 49-col. 6, line 2 and col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 9, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 5, wherein the master registry stores trust policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for verifying that the trusted authenticating domain is trusted further comprises computer-readable program code means for checking whether the stored trust policy information for a user group of which the user is a member includes the identification obtained from the user (see col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 10, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein the master registry stores trust policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for obtaining the identification of the trusted authenticating domain from the master registry further comprises:

computer-readable program code means for obtaining the identification using the stored trust policy information for the user (see col. 3, lines 54-60, col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 11, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein the master registry stores trust policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for obtaining the identification of the trusted authenticating domain from the master registry further comprises computer-readable program code means for obtaining the identification using the stored trust policy information for a user group of which the user is a member (see col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 12, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 4, wherein the master registry stores password synchronization policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for propagating the identifying secret to the one or more other target registries further comprises computer-readable program code means for identifying the one or more other target registries using the stored password synchronization policy information for the user (see col. 8, lines 34-44).

In respect to claim 13, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 4, wherein the master registry stores password synchronization policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for propagating the identifying secret to the one or more other target registries further comprises computer-readable program code means for identifying the one or more other target registries using the stored password synchronization policy information for a user group of which the user is a member (see col. 7, lines 24-50).

In respect to claim 14, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code means for establishing the secure connection further comprises computer-readable program code means for authenticating the PSA to the client (see col. 2, lines 34-45).

In respect to claim 15, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 2, wherein the computer-readable program code means for establishing the second secure connection further comprises computer readable

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program code means for authenticating the trusted authenticating domain to the PSA (see col. 2, lines 34-45).

In respect to claim 16, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 3, wherein the computer-readable program code means for establishing the third secure connection further comprises computer readable program code means for authenticating the master registry to the PSA (see col. 2, lines 34-45).

In respect to claim 17, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 5, wherein the computer-readable program code means for establishing additional secure connections further comprises computer readable program code means for authenticating the other target registries to the PSA (see col. 8, lines 34-44).

In respect to claim 19, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code means for validating further comprises computer-readable program code means for invoking an authenticated LDAP bind or other native authentication mechanism of the trusted authenticating domain, wherein the identifier of the user and the identifying secret of the user are passed to the trusted authenticating domain, thereby causing the trusted authenticating domain to validate the passed identifier and identifying secret and return a result which reports a success or failure of the validation (see col. 7, line 52-col. 8, line 4).

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In respect to claim 20, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the PSA has administrative authority for performing operations at the master registry (see col. 11, lines 27-31).

In respect to claim 21, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 4, wherein the PSA has administrative authority for performing operations at the one or more other target registries (see col. 3, lines 35-53).

In respect to claims 22-38 and 40-42, the claim limitations are system claims that are substantially similar to computer readable medium claims 1-17 and 19-21. Therefore, claims 22-38 and 40-42 are rejected based on the similar rationale.

In respect to claim 43, the claim limitation is a method claim that is substantially similar to computer readable medium claim 1. Therefore, claim 43 is rejected based on the similar rationale.

In respect to claim 44, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to claim 1, further comprising:

Computer-readable program code means for obtaining a new value from the user to be used as the propagated identifying secret if the validation succeeds (see col. 2, lines 15-54 and col. 7, lines 5-34); and

Computer-readable program code means for substituting this new value for the identifying secret prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for propagating (see col. 7, line 52-col. 8, line 4).

In respect to claims 45-46, the claim limitations are system and method claims that are substantially similar to computer-readable program code means of claim 1. Therefore, claims 45-46 are rejected based on the similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blakley (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,323) in view of Huynh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,184).

In respect to claim 18 and 39, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code means for validating further comprises:

computer-readable program code means for performing a security function on the identifying secret of the user, wherein the security function comprises one of (i) a one-way hashing algorithm or (ii) an encryption algorithm (see col. 3, lines 9-19);

computer-readable program code means for using the user identifier to locate a previously-stored identifying secret of the user which was stored by the master registry; and computer-readable program code means for comparing the

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located identifying secret to a result of performing the security function (see col. 2, lines 34-45).

Blakley does not disclose but Huynh discloses means for concluding that the validation succeeds if the located identified secret is identical to a result of performing the security function (Huynh, col. 1, lines 14-54 and col. 2, lines 27-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Blakley's propagating plaintext password with the teaching of Huynh's propagating encrypted password after validating of encrypted password succeeds so that attacker who gains access to the encrypted password can not readily discern the password (Huynh, col. 1, lines 34-37).

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

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calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tongoc Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-7690. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory A. Morse can be reached on (703) 308-4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner: Tongoc Tran
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TT

June 28, 2004


MATTHEW SMITHERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2137